

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSR-01 RSC-01 SS-07 H-03 NSC-06 AID-01

M-02 A-01 /030 W

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P 241328 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3449

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 8167

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID TH

SUBJECT: INOUYE COMMITTEE TRIP REPORT

REF: A. STATE 093466

B. STATE 094636

1. MISSION IS IMPRESSED WITH REPORT'S THOROUGH, BALANCED REVIEW OF SITUATION IN THAILAND AND US PROGRAMS HERE, AND WITH THE GENERAL SOUNDNESS OF ITS CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. OUR FEW COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS, SUBMITTED ON ASSUMPTION REPORT IS STILL IN DRAFT AND THAT CHANGES CAN BE MADE, ARE KEYED TO THE NUMBERED PARAGRAPHS ON PAGE 105 OF THE REPORT AND DEAL WITH THAT PART OF THE BASIC REPORT WHICH SUPPORTS THESE RECOMMENDATIONS:

REC. NO. 1. SUGGEST ADDITION OF PHRASE " AND FOR US COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY AND INVESTMENT", AT END OF PARAGRAPH. THIS ADDITION WOULD HELP TO EMPHASIZE THAT US INTEREST IN THAILAND IS NOT PURELY MILITARY AND IN US VIEW THAILAND IS AN IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNER AND LOCALE FOR BUSINESS ACTIVITY. WOULD ALSO SUGGEST DELETION OF FIRST PART OF FIRST SENTENCE ON P. 83 BEGINNING " WHILE" AND ENDING WITH " OPERATIONS" AS THE REFERENCE IS SO BRIEF IT CONVEYS LITTLE SUBSTANCE AND IS ACTUALLY CONFUSING. ON P. 85 SUGGEST SUBSTITUTION OF WORD " LITTLE" FOR WORD " NO" IN LAST LINE OF THIRD PARAGRAPH FROM

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BOTTOM AS IT IS CLEARLY INCORRECT AS IT NOW STANDS.
END OF NEXT PARAGRAPH SHOULD SHOW APPENDIX V B, NOT IV.

REC. NO. 2. NO COMMENT ON RECOMMENDATION. WE SUGGEST DELETION OF CLAUSE BEGINNING WITH " BUT" ON RELATIVE US AND RTG CONCERN IN TOP TWO LINES OF PAGE 90 BECAUSE SENIOR THAI OFFICIALS HAVE RECENTLY EXPRESSED A SERIOUS VIEW OF THE INSURGENCY, DOCUMENTED THE REASONS FOR RTG CONCERN IN A WHITE PAPER AND ARE FUNDING REMEDIAL PROGRAMS AT A HIGHER LEVEL. THE SLOW PACE OF INSURGENT GROWTH OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS IS EVIDENCE THAT THE INSURGENCY IS A LONG- RANGE PROBLEM FOR BOTH SIDES. SUBSEQUENT TO THE COMMITTEE'S VISIT, A SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER LEVEL OF INSURGENT ACTIVITY THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS HAS BEEN RECORDED, EVEN DURING THE DRY SEASON. THE GRADUAL CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE THAT THE RTG IS PURSUING APPEARS TO BE APPROPRIATE TO THE SITUATION. THE RTG'S NEW COUNTER- INSURGENCY PROGRAM EMPHASIZES IMPROVED CIVIL ADMINISTRATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTIVE MEASURES AIMED AT INCREASING THE " FRIENDLY COUNT," MUCH IN THE SPIRIT OF THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR US ASSISTANCE. THE MISSION'S VIEWS ON THE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM IN THIS RESPECT ARE CONVEYED IN THE AMBASSADOR'S LETTER OF MAY 1 TO SENATOR INOUE.

REC. NO. 3. NO COMMENT.

REC. NO. 4. ON BALANCE MISSION AGREES WITH THIS RECOMMENDATION AND HAS BEEN PROGRAMMING IN THIS DIRECTION FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. WE EXPECT TO CONTINUE TO DO SO. WE HAVE MADE ABSOLUTE REDUCTIONS IN PUBLIC SAFETY ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, ITS PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL SA PROGRAM HAS NOT DECLINED BECAUSE TOTAL SA FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE FELL MORE PRECIPITOUSLY THUS LIMITING USOM ABILITY TO START NEW PROJECTS.

REC. NO. 5. MISSION BELIEVES THAT AID/ W WOULD BE BETTER QUALIFIED TO COMMENT ON WHETHER ITS IMAGE IS SUFFERING FROM ASSOCIATION WITH THE PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THE COMMITTEE FOUND LITTLE IF ANY EVIDENCE IN THAILAND TO SUPPORT THIS CONCLUSION.

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TO THE CONTRARY, THAI OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED KEEN DISAPPOINTMENT AT FALLING AID LEVELS FOR THE POLICE. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE DAMAGE TO OUR RELATIONS WITH THE THAI NATIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT RESULTING FROM ENDING AID TO THEM WOULD INEVITABLY HAVE DELETERIOUS EFFECTS ON THEIR COOPERATION WITH US AGAINST NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. POLICE ARE ALSO IMPORTANT ELEMENT

IN CI ACTIVITIES AND US SUPPORT CONTRIBUTES TO US AND RTG
CONCENTRATION ON CI EFFORTS.

REC. NO. 6. NO COMMENT ON RECOMMENDATION. SUGGEST
DELETION OF PHRASE IN BEGINNING OF FIRST SENTENCE ON P.
93 BEGINNING WITH " ALTHOUGH" AND ENDING WITH " IT. WE
BELIEVE STATEMENT IS INCORRECT AND THAT THERE IS NOW
CLEAR EVIDENCE THAIS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT DOMESTIC PROB-
LEM. ALSO SUGGEST ADDING WORDS " WE ARE PREPARED TO
PROVIDE" AT BEGINNING OF SENTENCE IN LINE 11 AND DELETE
WORDS " IS BEING PROVIDED." THIS CHANGE ALSO TO REFLECT
FACTUAL SITUATION.

REC. NO. 7. ITEA OF KEEPING " SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER
OF MILITARY PERSONNEL" HERE AS A Foothold SEEMS TO US
TO MISS THE MAIN ISSUE. IF, IN THE LONG RUN, WE WANT A
FOOTHOLD, WE COULD KEEP IT WITH A MUCH REDUCED PRESENCE.
ON P. 86 (PARA 1) COMMITTEE SAYS WE MAY WANT A PRESENCE
IN THAILAND IN THE LONGER RUN AND SHOULD CONTINUE OUR
MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONS WITH THAILAND SO WE HAVE
THIS OPTION; AND IN LAST PARA STATES A MASSIVE US MILI-
TARY PRESENCE FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD MAY NOT BE
NECESSARY. IN FACT, IF THERE IS STABILITY IN INDOCHINA,
THE RTG WILL INSIST ON SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS IN OUR

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M-02 A-01 /030 W
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P 241328 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3450

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 BANGKOK 8167

MILITARY PRESENCE. IT SEEMS TO US THAT KEY POINT IS
THAT, FOR THE TIME BEING, THE MAINTENANCE OF SUBSTANTIAL
US FORCES IN THAILAND MAKES A VITAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE
EFFORTS TO EXTEND THE CEASEFIRE TO CAMBODIA AND TO MAKE
THE PARIS AGREEMENTS EFFECTIVE THROUGHOUT INDOCHINA.
THE PHASED WITHDRAWAL OF THE BULK OF OUR PRESENT FORCES
SHOULD BE ORCHESTRATED WITH PROGRESS TOWARD THE

ATTAINMENT OF THESE OBJECTIVES WHICH WOULD BE MAJOR STEPS TOWARD PEACE AND STABILITY IN THIS AREA.

WITH REGARD TO THE DELEGATION'S CONCERN THAT US FORCES MIGHT BECOME INVOLVED IN THAILAND'S INSURGENCY, IT HAS BEEN THE CONSISTENT POLICY OF BOTH THE US AND THAI GOVERNMENTS THAT THAI FORCES ONLY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INTERNAL SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY. THE US HAS NO GROUND COMBAT TROOPS IN THAILAND, AND US ADVISORS DO NOT ACCOMPANY THAI TROOPS ON COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS.

REC. NO. 8. NO COMMENT.

2. ON SUBJECT OF POLICE COUNTER-INSURGENCY TRAINING CENTER, MISSION NOT AWARE OF SOURCE OR NATURE OF INFORMATION IN PARA 5, P. 84 THAT "AID'S PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM DID NOT INVOLVE THE DISTRIBUTION OF GRENADES OTHER THAN THOSE CONTAINING GAS FOR QUELLING DISORDERLY CROWDS." USOM'S PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM HAS HAD PRIMARY CI ORIENTATION SINCE 1964. FURNISHING OF GENERAL PURPOSE

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FRAGMENTATION GRENADES IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH SUCH A PROGRAM. SPECIFICALLY, USOM RECORDS INDICATE 11 CASES OF FRAGMENTATION AND 8 CASES OF PRACTICE GRENADES WERE PRESENT IN THE UDORN TRAINING CENTER. OVER THE YEARS, USOM HAS PROVIDED ROUGHLY 74,000 SUCH GRENADES FOR TRAINING AND FIELD UTILIZATION. USOM LAST PROCURED FRAGMENTATION GRENADES (LESS THAN 7,000) IN 1970 AND AS OF MAY 24, 1973, NO FRAGMENTATION GRENADES ARE IN THE PIPELINE. THE 1971 CIVIL POLICE PROJECT AGREEMENT SPECIFIED A PHASE-OUT SCHEDULE FOR ALL KINDS OF USOM AMMUNITION SUPPORT TO THE THAI POLICE. THE REASON FOR THIS POLICY IS TO BUILD TNPd SELF-SUFFICIENCY, PARTICULARLY IN O & M AREAS.

3. REFERENCE IN LAST SENTENCE P. 84 PARA 1 SHOULD BE TO APPENDIX V.

4. RE DECLASSIFICATION FOLLOWING DELETIONS OR CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE FROM AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS BEGINNING P. 95 OF REPORT IF HIS MESSAGE IS TO BE DECLASSIFIED: P. 95 PENULTIMATE PARAGRAPH REPLACE OPENING WORDS "SOME ADDITIONAL" WITH WORD "CONTINUED." PAGE 96 DELETE FIRST SENTENCE FIRST PARAGRAPH AND LAST SENTENCE AT SECOND PARAGRAPH. PAGE 97 DELETE FOURTH PARAGRAPH. PAGE 97 DELETE LAST SENTENCE. PAGE 98 DELETE FIRST PARAGRAPH NUMBERED 3. PAGE 100 DELETE PHRASE BEGINNING TOP LINE "PROVIDE" AND ENDING SECOND LINE "AGGRESSORS." PAGE 100 PENULTIMATE PARA DELETE FINAL SENTENCE.

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